Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable fibrous web comprising biodegradable polymer fibers, wherein the biodegradable polymer fibers comprise polylactic acid, the web having a durable hydrophilic surface coated with a hydrophilic polymeric material in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 2.0 percent by weight, based on the dry weight of the web; in which the hydrophilic polymeric material is a cellulose derivative, the cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, or a combination thereof; wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material will not significantly suppress the surface tension of an aqueous medium with which the web may come in contact.

19-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.05 to about 1.0 percent by weight of the web, based on the dry weight of the web.

26. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 percent by biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

27. (Previously Presented) An absorbent personal care product comprising the biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

28. (Currently Amended) A biomedical device comprising ~~the~~ a biodegradable fibrous web ~~of claim 18~~, the biodegradable fibrous web comprising biodegradable

polymer fibers, wherein the biodegradable polymer fibers comprise polylactic acid, the web having a durable hydrophilic surface coated with a hydrophilic polymeric material in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 2.0 percent by weight, based on the dry weight of the web; in which the hydrophilic polymeric material is a cellulose derivative, the cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, or a combination thereof; wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material will not significantly suppress the surface tension of an aqueous medium with which the web may come in contact.

29. (Currently Amended) A food package comprising ~~the~~ a biodegradable fibrous web ~~of claim 18~~, the biodegradable fibrous web comprising biodegradable polymer fibers, wherein the biodegradable polymer fibers comprise polylactic acid, the web having a durable hydrophilic surface coated with a hydrophilic polymeric material in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 2.0 percent by weight, based on the dry weight of the web; in which the hydrophilic polymeric material is a cellulose derivative, the cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, or a combination thereof; wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material will not significantly suppress the surface tension of an aqueous medium with which the web may come in contact.

30. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the web is a nonwoven web.

31. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 30, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown web, spunbond web, or a combination thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the surface is substantially uniformly coated with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

33-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the cellulose derivative is ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.

37. (New) The biomedical device of claim 28, wherein the biomedical device is selected from the group consisting of sutures, filters, and scaffolds.

38. (New) The biomedical device of claim 28, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.05 to about 1.0 percent by weight of the web, based on the dry weight of the web.

39. (New) The biomedical device of claim 38, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 percent by biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

40. (New) The biomedical device of claim 28, wherein the web is a nonwoven web.

41. (New) The biomedical device of claim 40, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown web, spunbond web, or a combination thereof.

42. (New) The biomedical device of claim 28, wherein the surface is substantially uniformly coated with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

43. (New) The biomedical device of claim 28, wherein the cellulose derivative is ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.

44. (New) The food package of claim 29, wherein food package is a tea bag.

45. (New) The food package of claim 29, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.05 to about 1.0 percent by weight of the web, based on the dry weight of the web.

46. (New) The food package of claim 45, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 percent by biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

47. (New) The food package of claim 29, wherein the web is a nonwoven web.

48. (New) The food package of claim 47, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown web, spunbond web, or a combination thereof.

49. (New) The food package of claim 29, wherein the surface is substantially uniformly coated with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

50. (New) The food package of claim 29, wherein the cellulose derivative is ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.